PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/942,992

Page 20, first full paragraph, delete and insert the following:

One hundred parts by weight of rubber components having the Compositions shown in Table 1,2-hydroxy-N'-(1,3-dimethylbutylidene)-3-naphthoic acid hydrazide (BMH) in amounts shown in Table 1, 50 parts by weight of carbon black of the SAF grade, 1.0 part by weight of microcrystaline wax (manufactured by SEIKO KAGAKU Co., Ltd.) 2.0 parts by weight of stearic acid, 1.3 parts by weight of an antioxidant 6C (N-phenyl-N'-(1-3-dimethylbutyl)-p-phenylenediamine), 3.5 parts by weight of zinc oxide, 1.0 part by weight of a vulcanization accelerator CZ(N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazyl sulfeneamide) and 1.2 parts by weight of sulfur were compounded and rubber compositions were [prepared.] prepared and vulcanized at 145°C for 30 minutes. The prepared rubber compositions were used for tread rubbers and tires having sized (11R22.5) were prepared.

Page 20, last paragraph, bridging page 21, delete and insert the following:

(2) Tear resistance

From a tread of a tire after the abrasion test, a block of 10 X 10 X 200 mm was obtained as a sample. A cut of 30 mm was formed in the sample at the center in the direction of the thickness. Portions of the sample at both sides of the formed cut were pulled apart and the tear strength was measured. The result is expressed as an index based on the result of Comparative Example 1 which is set at 100. The greater the value, the better the tear resistance.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/942,992

Page 21, last paragraph, delete and insert the following:

The reverse of the amount of abrasion was used as the abrasion resistance. The result is expressed as an index based on the result of Comparative Example 1 which is set at 100. The greater the value, the better the abrasion resistance.

Page 22, Table 1 - 1, delete and insert the following new table:

Table 1 - 1

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Comparative Example 1
Dubbar component				
Rubber component (part by weight)				
natural rubber	80	60	50	100
E-SBR ¹)	-	-	-	-
S-SBR ²)	20	40	20	-
BR ³)	-	-	30	-
BMH ⁴) (part by weight)	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
Low heat generating	112	125	126	100
Property (index)				
Tear Resistance (index)	122	117	115	100
Abrasion resistance (index)	114	116	125	100



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/942,992

Page 23, Table 1 - 2, delete and insert the following new Table.

Table 1 - 2

	Comparative	Comparative	Comparative	Comparative
	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Rubber component				
(part by weight)				
natural rubber	80	80	- 60	60
E-SBR ¹)	20	-	40	-
S-SBR ²)	-	20	-	40
BR^3)	-	-	-	-
BMH ⁴) (part by weight)	-	-	-	-
Low heat generating	94	100	87	110
Property (index)				
Tear Resistance (index)	105	106	112	101
Abrasion resistance (index)	107	107	110	110

Page 24, first paragraph, delete and insert the following:

As shown in Table 1, the rubber compositions of the present invention comprising the styrene-butadiene rubber obtained by a solution polymerization having a Sn atom in its molecule, and a hydrazide compound exhibit an excellent balance between physical properties of the low heat generating property, tear resistance and abrasion resistance.

